

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 02846 251400Z

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 FBOE-00 A-01 /017 W

-----065915 251409Z /46

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1891

UNCLAS SANA 2846

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, YE

SUBJECT: MOVE OF MSG DETACHMENT HOUSE TO MORE SUITABLE LOCATION

REF: SANA 2741

1. AN UNFORTUNATE AND POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION BETWEEN THE MARINE DETACHMENT AND THE YEMENI POLICE OCCURRED THIS WEEK (SEE REFTEL). IN BRIEF, DUE THE HOSTILITY OF THE NEIGHBORS, POSSIBLY INSTIGATED BY THE LANDLORD WHO IS TRYING TO EVICT US, THE LOCAL POLICE, ACTING ON A FALSE COMPLAINT, A. FORCIBLY TRIED TO ARREST A MARINE AND B. SHORTLY THEREAFTER PLACED AN 8 MAN POLICE GUARD ON THE MARINE HOUSE WITH INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO LET ANYONE IN OR OUT OF THE HOUSE. THE AMBASSADOR HAD TO INTERVENE, AND WITH THE HELP OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS ABLE TO REMOVE THE GUARDS QUICKLY.

2. THE INCIDENT DESCRIBED ABOVE IS A CULMINATION OF A SERIES OF MINOR INCIDENTS, SUCH AS THROWING STONES AT THE MARINES, LETTING AIR OUT OF THE TIRES OF THE MARINE VEHICLE, NEIGHBORS USING VILE AND PROFANE LANGUAGE AND AT TIMES THREATENING BODILY HARM.

3. THE LANDLORD COULD VERY POSSIBLY BE INSTIGATING THE NEIGHBOURS TO TAKE SUCH ACTION, SINCE

A. HE IS FIGHTING TO GET THE HOUSE BACK, AND

B. IS A VERY INFLUENTIAL MAN IN SANA.

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4. THE EMBASSY HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO RELOCATE THE MARINE HOUSE. WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING IN QUIET RESIDENTIAL AREAS WHICH HAVE PREDOMINANTLY EXPATRIATE PERSONS FOR NEIGHBOURS AND PRIVACY FROM YEMENIS IN GENERAL. WE HAVE NOW LOCATED SUCH A HOUSE, AND DETAILS OF IT ARE:

. HOUSE LOCATED IN AN AREA WHERE ONLY NEIGHBOURS ARE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. ON TWO SIDES OF THE HOUSE ARE OPEN FIELDS.

B. HOUSE IS LARGE TWO STORIED BUILDING WITH FIVE BEDROOMS UPSTAIRS, TWO BEDROOMS DOWNSTAIRS, SPACIOUS RECREATION AREA, DINING ROOM AND SITTING ROOM ON GROUND FLOOR. HOUSE IS NEWLY CONSTRUCTED.

C. HOUSE IS SITUATED ON LARGE LOT (150 FEET BY 150 FEET) COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY SECURITY WALL OVER 9 FEET HIGH, THUS BLOCKING ANY POSSIBILITY OF DISTURBANCE FROM OUTSIDE.

D. LANDLORD IS WILLING TO SIGN THREE YEAR LEASE, NO OPTIONS THEREAFTER AT A YEARLY COST OF DOL 31,284. THERE IS NO HOPE TO BARGAIN HIM DOWN AND GIVEN SIZE AND EXCELLENT CONDITION OF HOUSE HE WILL GET THAT AMOUNT FROM ANY DIPLOMATIC BUSINESS FIRM THAT WANTS, WE ENVISION APPROXIMATE START-UP COST OF DOL 3,000 TO MAKE HOME LIVABLE FOR UNITED STATES STANDARDS.

6. GIVEN THE SITUATION OUTLINED ABOVE AND ALSO IN REFTTEL WE URGENTLY NEED APPROVAL TO LEASE THE NEW BUILDING IMMEDIATELY. THE MARINES HAVE BEEN COOPED UP EVER SINCE THE LAST INCIDENT, THEIR MORALE IS LOW, AND THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO MOVE THEM AND MOVE THEM FAST.

SCOTES

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